

REPORT OF ORIENTATION CAMP FOR TEACHERS

(UNDER 'TAKING GANDHI TO SCHOOLS' PROJECT)

25th December, '78 to 1st January, '79

INTRODUCTION

17-12-78
14368

CATALOGUE

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It is imperative that a sincere effort should be made to introduce young students, who are now in schools, to Gandhiji, his life and work, so that they may understand some of the values and ideas he stood for and strive to imbibe some of them. This generation has never seen Gandhiji, nor experienced the agonies of the years of slavery, nor lived through the heroic non-violent struggle for independence. They tend to take their freedom for granted, and sometimes scoff at Gandhi, regarding him as a faddist. It is essential, therefore, that they understand the message of the Father of Nation who, unfortunately for most of them, is just another heroic figure in history books, or a moralist preaching traditional virtues like truth and non-violence, or an idol only to be deified and worshipped. The 'Taking Gandhi to Schools' programme, initiated by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and Gandhi Darshan during the last three years, has been a small effort in this direction. However, it is obvious, that to be truly effective, it is the schools themselves, and their teachers especially, who would have to carry the message of Gandhiji to the students, rather than any outside organisation like the Gandhi Peace Foundation which can, at best provide certain suggestions and guidance. But teachers, too, need an orientation to Gandhian ideas and Gandhian values. It is for this purpose and to discuss certain programmes which can be carried out in the schools, that an orientation camp for Teachers of Delhi Schools was organised.

The main thrust of the camp was two fold: (a) to provide an orientation to Gandhian work and ideas for teachers of Delhi schools (b) to conduct a case study of the institution from the point of view of Gandhian philosophy with special reference to Socially Useful Productive Work so that the teachers may be in a better

position to introduce it in their respective schools and also to influence their colleagues to work on the same lines.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of organising the camp were:

1. To make the teachers realise the need to develop desirable attitudes and values in the students based on Gandhiji's thought and action;
2. To orient the teachers about the Gandhian values --
3. To orient the teachers about the techniques adopted by Gandhiji for tackling problems faced by individuals and the country;
4. To elucidate to the teachers the special features of basic education and socially useful productive manual work and community services, through visits to Nai Talim Institution and conducting their case studies;
5. To develop programmes and activities for the schools for 'Taking Gandhi to the Children'.
6. To conduct a comprehensive case study of Gram Dakshinamoorthy and certain neighbouring institutions from the point of view of socially useful production work, and community services.

VENUE

The Camp was organised at Gram Dakshinamoorthy, Ambla, Dist. Bhavnagar, Gujarat. This is one of the institutions which has been doing considerably good work in education on Gandhian lines specially in relating education to socially useful productive useful work. It was therefore decided to take the teachers to one such institution, so that they may see at first hand the work going on to impart the kind of education that Gandhiji had envisaged to develop self-confidence and self-reliance in the children.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants were 33 teachers from Delhi Hr. Sec. School and two workers from Gandhi Peace Foundation.

Initially all the 125 schools participating in 'Taking Gandhi to Schools' Programme (1978-79) were contacted and general information regarding the camp and its objectives were circulated to them. The Principals' commitment to introduce SUPW and environmental education in their respective schools was first sought and if this was ensured they were asked to nominate one of the senior teachers, who would be willing to carry out this work, for the camp.

On the basis of the names suggested by the Principals, 33 teachers were selected for the camp. (A list of teachers and their respective schools is appended at the end). All thirty three were senior school teachers from various disciplines. They were generally teachers who have been involved in 'Taking Gandhi to Schools' programme were willing to carry out SUPW in their schools.

There were thirty men and three women in the group.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

Prior to the camp, a series of 3 one day camps were organised on Sunday, to acquaint the teachers not only of the objectives and emphasis of the camp, but also of new thrusts in the educational policies of the Government and with certain basic features of Gandhian Education. Dr.D.S.Navat, S.C.Chaudhari, of NCERT, Dr.Suresh Shukla of Jamia Millia, Sri A.Rama Rao of KVIC, Sri Rajiv Vora of Gandhi Peace Foundation, Sri N.Krishnaswamy of Voluntary Action Cell addressed the participants at these orientation camps held at Gandhi Darshan on 3, 10, 17th Dec. 1978.

THE CAMP

The group left Delhi on 22nd Dec., 1978 and arrived in Ambla on 24th Dec., 1978. The camp started on 24th Dec., 1978 with an introductory meeting between the camp participants and the staff of Gram Dakshinamoorthy, followed by a visit to the various units of the institution. A tentative programme had been drawn up in Delhi which had to be recast, in the light of local problems and needs. The idea was to have an equal amount of theoretical discussions and practical work.

DISCUSSIONS

The academic 'session' started with a discussion with Sri Manu Bhai Pancholi on the "Perspectives of the Sanosara Experiment" at which he explained briefly about the history and philosophy of the Sanosara Experiment, and the alternative it tried to provide to the existing system. He also gave some useful suggestions to introduce essential features of basic education in the ordinary urban school situation, and that political commitment and administrative support was necessary for the success of these schemes. A visit to Lok Bharati Rural Institute was part of the presentation on "prospectives".

A discussion with Jyoti Bhai Desai proved lively and informative. He suggested that educational reconstruction required political commitment. Also, some drastic measures, like that of Cuba, of closing schools for 3 years and thinking out what steps can be taken for improvement, was necessary. In a discussion on "Salient features of Basic Education" and which aspects could be introduced in the urban situation, he suggested adoption of one school for intensive work on these lines. A formal degree was not necessary for a teacher. The need was for a commitment to teaching. The basic principle of education should remain the same whether the urban or rural schools.

In the discussion on SUPW it was decided that the child's interest, local needs and availability of raw materials, usefulness to society, educative value, etc. should all be taken into consideration when introducing SUPW in schools.

Shri Raman Bhai, Vice Chancellor of Bhavanagar University said "SUPW not a new concept. It is one of the dimensions of education which has not been implemented."

In another discussion Shri Manu Bhai R talked at length about informal education, although he did not rule out the utility of the class room in the process of Education. Regarding SUPW he said, it should not be piece-meal as at present but should be a constant process. Gandhi's idea was to build through education a non-violent social order. Education would help the people inculcate an attitude of non-violence. One can do so, involving children in creative activities.

Vajubhai Patel talked at length about the role of teachers in SUPW and said that failure to implement it was the failure of teachers, not students.

Shri Madhu Bhai Buch called for urgent reforms in the implementation of new ideas in education/especially with regard to SUPW. If properly implemented, it could avoid the huge stagnation and wastage in our educational system.

ACTIVITIES

These academic lectures formed only part of the total activities of the camp. Equal emphasis was laid on practical work. Apart from daily programmes of manual work, teacher campers were expected to participate in the daily routine of the school, as far as possible, and engage themselves in the corporate life of the basic school.

The participants made a thorough study of the institution of Gram Dakshinamoorthy and Lok Bharati and their various units of work and attempted to analyse their significance and importance from the point of view of introducing effective SUPW programmes in their own schools in Delhi.

Besides, three hours each day were set aside for manual work which included work on the farms. The teacher campers also participated in the regular teaching of the school.

A day was devoted to village visits and survey of socio-economic conditions in the village. The participants were divided into groups for purposes of chalking out concrete work programmes in their schools when they returned. A third group discussed the importance of SUPW in education.

The groups also discussed the day-to-day problems faced by teachers in implementing SUPW programmes and hoped that various Resource Organisations in Delhi would help and solve the problems faced by teachers were:

- i) Lack of space in school premises
- ii) curriculum and syllabus centred education hampered progress of SUPW.
- iii) SUPW was not yet part of school curriculum and not much importance was given to it.
- iv) lack of commitment and proper attitude on part of authorities is reflected in the students' attitude to SUPW.
- v) burden of more home work on the students.
- vi) teachers were not properly oriented or trained in SUPW
- vii) lack of dignity of labour and interest in white collared jobs.
- viii) teachers were over burdened with academic work and had no time for them.
- ix) materialistic attitude to work prevents them from taking interest in any activity which is not paying.

CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF THE CAMP

The selection of teachers merely on the basis of nominations of principals, proved under the circumstances, not a very dependable criterion of selection, - because they were without commitment. All teachers were not necessarily those involved in work experience and had very little knowledge about new ideas and developments on these lines.

The participants themselves seemed lacking in enthusiasm and commitment and out to have a good time rather than concentrate on serious work.

Although a careful selection of Resource Persons both from NCERT and Gandhian institutions was made, and their commitment to the cause was sought, they could not keep their appointments due to other preoccupations and this proved an obstacle to the smooth running of the camp, as the scheduled programmes could not take place and great inconvenience was caused to the organisers. The entire program ~~ka~~ had to be recast and many intended themes of discussion could not take place. The concept and implementation of Supw could thus not be worked out in its entirety.

TIME OF CAMP

The timing of the camp was not very suitable from the institution point of view as it was vacation time. However this could not be avoided, as participants were working teachers and no other time would have suited them.

TOPICS

One week could at best provide an "orientation" to the teachers to ideas of supw, Gandhian ideas in education, etc. For more intensive work, a camp of longer duration is needed.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The camp was, however, not without any achievements.

It provided an "exposure" no matter how brief, to an excellent educational institution working on Gandhian lines and successfully implementing work-centred education - to Delhi school teachers.

It was an opportunity to meet and discuss at length with eminent Gandhian "practitioners" of educational theories, what basic problems were faced in schools in introducing Gandhian ideas and how they could be overcome.

For many Delhi based teachers, it was their first exposure to 'rural' life and the cultural life of another state. It was thus, in a small way, a lesson in national integration.

FOLLOW-UP

The camp lasting a week, could at best prove an "orientation" ground, and throw up certain new ideas in the minds of the teachers. To implement these ideas, intensive follow up work was necessary.

~~An attempt has~~

An attempt has been made in this direction by Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Peace Foundation by calling meetings of Gandhian institutions, NCERT, Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the teachers, to explore avenues of work and chalk out areas of cooperation between various institutions - but nothing concrete has emerged yet - perhaps due to lack of genuine interest and commitment on part of all these institutions. The Delhi Administration has since, directed its schools to introduce supw programmes. We can only wait and see.

APPENDIX-ILIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	Shri Bhim Singh	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Palam, New Delhi.	
2.	Shri O.P. Dalal	Ramjas Hr. Sec. School No. 5 Karol Bagh, New Delhi	
3.	Shri Rishikesh Channa	Ramjas Hr. Sec. School	
4.	Shri A.S. Aggarwal	Ramjas Hr. Sec. School Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-6	
5.	Shri P.S. Gaur	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi	
6.	Shri B.S. Verma	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Shakarpur, New Delhi	
7.	Prabhash Chand Gupta	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Narsina, New Delhi-46	
8.	Ambika Dutt Shastri	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School C.C. Colony, New Delhi	
9.	R.N. Ojha	S.B. Mills Hr. Sec. School New Delhi-15	
10.	Shiv Dutt Sharma	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Ramjit Nagar, New Delhi	
11.	Shri G.C. Gupta	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School No. 2 Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-27	
12.	Shri Man Sukhlal Galhot	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Maxx Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-15	
13.	Shri B.D. Pd. Gupta	Marwari Hr. Sec. School Nai Sarai, Delhi	
14.	Shri G.C. Sharma	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Jhilmil Colony, Shahdara, Delhi	
15.	Shri Mahendra Singh	Daudayal Arya Vedic Hr. Sec. School Khari Baoli, Delhi-6	
16.	Shri A.R. Gupta	Lady Neayce Deaf & Dumb School Ferozshah Kotla, New Delhi	
17.	Shri B.L. Sharma	Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Palam, New Delhi	
18.	Shri Om Prakash Verma	Dan Dayal Arya Vedic Hr. Sec. School Naya Baus, Delhi-6	
19.	Shri Dev Dutt Sharma Swatantra	B.R.A.G.H.S.S. Shahdara, Delhi-32	

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| 20. | Sri Tula Ram Singh | Govt. Co. Edu. M. School
Inderlok, New Delhi |
| 21. | Dr. Lekh Raj Yadav | Delhi Public School
R.K. Puram, New Delhi |
| 22. | Mrs Nirmala Oberai | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School
Shakarpur, New Delhi |
| 23. | Shri Raj Kumar
Aggarwal | Marwari Hr. Sec. School
Delhi-6 |
| 24. | Sri Vinay Saxena | Shivanand Memorial Hr. Sec. School
Karampura, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi |
| 25. | Miss Amarjeet | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School
Idgah Road, Delhi-6 |
| 26. | Ram Kumar Gupta | Ramjas Hr. Sec. School No. 2
Anand Parbat, New Delhi-5 |
| 27. | Mrs. Nirmal Narula | Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School
Chand Nagar, New Delhi |
| 28. | Sri Baldev Singh
Bhasin | Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School
Hari Nagar, New Delhi |
| 29. | Sri D.S. Chauhan | Ramjas Hr. Sec. School No. 3
Kucha Natwa, Delhi-6 |
| 30. | Sri Narendra Kumar
Gautam | Ramjas Hr. Sec. School No. 7 |
| 31. | Sri Balkishan Sharma | D.C.M. Boys Hr. Sec. School |
| 32. | Sri J.C. Khanna | Ramjas Hr. Sec. School No. 1 |
| 33. | Ramesh | Organiser |
| 34. | Sri B.L. Sharma | |

APPENDIX II

LIST OF ACTIVITIES UNDER SUPW

Class I	Clay and modelling, paper cutting, paper flower.
Class II	Clay modelling, paper cutting, paper flower, spinning by takali
Class III	Spinning by Takali, paper flower, Card Board cutting, dolls making, watering the plants.
Class IV	Spinning, preparing poonies, making black into chalk making, doll making, planting.
Class V	Spinning with Ambar Charkha poong making, planting, work of plaster of paris, candle making, chalk making, black ink making, paper making
Class VI	Spinning with Ambar Charkha
Class VII	Charpai mat making
Class VIII	Carpet making, knitting, gardening, mat making, envelop making, cane-chair Paper toys making, file making
Class IX - XII	Spinning, stitching, Oil ghani, light printing press, leather work, photography, washing powder, electronics.

LIST OF RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Shri Manu Bhai Pancholi, Lok Bharati, Sanosara
2. Shri Anil Bhai Bhatt, Gram Dakshinamoorthy, Ambla
3. Shri Jyoti Bhai Dessai, Gandhi Vidyapeeth, Vedchhi, Dist. Surat
4. Shri Kumud Bhai, Lok Bharati, Sanosara
5. Shri Raman Bhai Vice Chancellor, Bhavanagar, University
6. Shri Vajubhai Patel Gandhi Shikshan Bhavan, Bombay
7. Shri Purshottam Bhai, Lok Bharati, Sanosara
8. Dr. M. B. Buch, Visiting Professor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth,
Ahmedabad.
